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THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE

APPLESEED

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E



APPLESEED™

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APPLESEED™ BOOK FOUR: THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE

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[with DUANE JOHNSON]

lettering by **TOM ORZECOWSKI**



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032



[21] DECOY

065



[22] OUTLET STORE

094



[23] OUTLOOK ENVELOPE

108



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144



[25] SHALOM

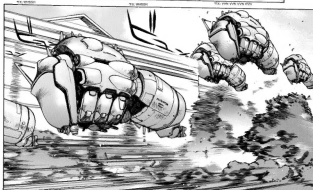
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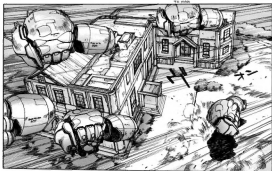


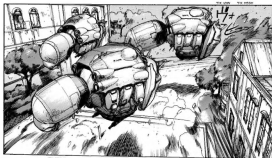
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THE STRIKE

THE CLASH

THE BOMBARD





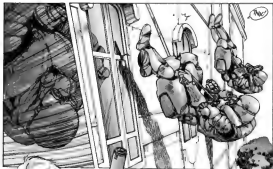




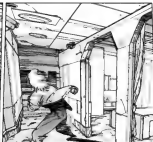


*Goonan's derogatory term for former members of the United States Army Green Berets... prejudice learned from her father. The Mumma Holy Republic. Goonan refers to the "Second Vietnam" where the U.S. and the Soviet Union fought in a hell of a sand against suicide troops and terrorists















ROOM 2-B
CLEAR... ONE
DOWN, ONE
DEAD...
HOSTAGES
ALL OKAY.







4. プロメテウスの大天秤





TWO DAYS AGO, A MAN CONTACTED OUR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU AT HEADQUARTERS ASKING FOR HELP.



SO WE MADE THE SWAP, AND NINETY MINUTES LATER HIS FAMILY WAS RELEASED. THEY'RE SAFE.

HE'S THE HEAD OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT BEZERRIC TECHNICA. HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THE CRIMINALS WERE DEMANDING THAT HE PRODUCE A SET OF PARTS IN EXCHANGE FOR

WE WERE SURVIVING INVESTIGATIONS. SAFE.



THE PARTS WERE LOADED INTO EIGHT VANS, BUT TWENTY MINUTES AGO WE LOST TRACK OF THE VANS AND THE TWO INVESTIGATORS THAT HAD BEEN TRACKING IT.



ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE CRIMINALS FOUND THE TRANSMITTERS WE PUT ON THE PARTS. BUT WE MANAGED TO KEEP A TAIL ON THEM ANYWAY.

HERE'S
WHAT
WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR

AS SOON AS
WE PICKED UP
THE FAMILY, WE
CLOSED THE
DISTRICT TIGHT--
AIRPORTS, TUNES,
PORT FACILITIES,
ALL LOOKED
DOWN.

SMALL
ENOUGH
TO LOAD
INTO WANS,
BUT TOO
BIG TO
HIDE?

I PRESUME
THESE PARTS
AREN'T
SOMETHING
THE
CRIMINALS
COULD LET
ANYONE
SEE



SUPER
COOLING TANK
FOR A HERMIE'S
CONTROL CON.
SMALL THERMAL
SHELL FOR A
COMPACT FUSION
REACTOR

BREASTPLATE
END FOR A
LANDMADE MAIN
FRAME HP
ASSEMBLY ENOUGH
FOR ONE
MACHINE



THIS IS NO NORMAL LANDMATE. JUDGING FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE HIP AND LEG ASSEMBLY, IT'S BEEN DESIGNED TO BE WORN BY A CYBORG.



ASSEMBLING JUST THE PARTS WE KNOW OF WOULD PUT IT OVER THIRTEEN FEET HIGH, SO IT'S AT LEAST TWICE AS BIG AS A NORMAL LANDMATE.

AND ONE MORE THING: SIZE.



LET ME EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND.

IF YOU HAD ACUTE APPENDICITIS, WOULD YOU ASK A ROTUS TO DO THE OPERATION?



OF THE TWELVE ONLY SIX HAVE THE KIND OF SPACE AND EQUIPMENT IT WOULD TAKE TO ASSEMBLE THE GIANT.



THE FINAL ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES REQUIRE LARGE AMOUNTS OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY. TWELVE LOCATIONS WITHIN THE INVESTIGATION AREA HAVE REGISTERED SHARP INCREASES IN WATER AND POWER CONSUMPTION OVER THE LAST HOUR.



IF YOU'VE GOT IT PINNED DOWN THAT CLOSE, WHY NOT USE ONE OF THE ROBOT GUN PLATFORMS?



THERE ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS, ARRANGED BY AGENTS.

ONE WEEK FROM TODAY, THERE WILL BE A SECRET CONFERENCE AT THE TOP OF THE BEZEHORC* DOME BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF IMPERIAL AMERICANA AND THE UNITED SOVIET SOCIALIST STATE REPUBLICS.

HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. THE REAL PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THE GUY ON THE LEFT. HE APPEARS TO HAVE ENTERED OLYMPIUS IN DISGUISE. WE HAVE NO DATA ON HIM, NOTHING AT ALL.



THE DESIGN OF THE PARTS SUGGESTS THAT THE MAN ON THE RIGHT IS THE FATHER OF THE GIANT SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW HIM--DA, SLADE.

HERE'S A SURVEILLANCE SHOT WE TOOK AT THE CONFERENCE SITE--WE WERE CHECKING OUT PEOPLE WHO'VE ORDERED SUSPICIOUS LANDMATE PARTS.



THE FISH TOOK THE BAIT. WE'VE GOT THE HOOK IN HIS THROAT RIGHT NOW--HE'S UNDER INTERROGATION.

NOW I GET IT...



THREE DAYS AGO WE DELIBERATELY LEAKED WORD THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN PUSHED FORWARD THREE DAYS.

ONLY FOURTEEN PEOPLE ARE IN A POSITION TO KNOW ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. SIX OF THEM ARE YOU RIGHT HERE THAT LEAVES EIGHT UNDER SUSPICION.

A LEAK, MAYBE? SOMEONE FED THE DATA TO THE OUTSIDE?

*Bezehrak"--or "the beautifully built house"--is the arcology complex and district in Olympus housing most embassies and public offices.



THAT'S
ALL
QUESTIONS?

YOUR JOB IS TO
FOLLOW EVERY
LEAD, FIND OUT
WHAT'S GOING ON,
AND CLEAN THEM
OUT. LANCE IS
IN TACTICAL
COMMAND.



WHETHER IS
A CHALLENGE
TO US, OR JUST
A LOUSY PLAN,
IT'S STILL TOO
AMATEURISH.
MAYBE IT'S JUST
A DEMONSTRATION
FROM THE
FEDERAL
BUREAU.

THIS IS A FOOLISH WAY
TO ASSASSINATE A HIGH
OFFICIAL. THEY MUST
KNOW THAT NO MATTER
HOW QUICKLY THEY MOVE,
WE CAN TRACE THEIR
WEAPONS PROCUREMENT.
THE WHOLE
THING STINKS.



DON'T FORGET
THE BANG'S MOVE
WITH THE
EQUIPMENT. WE'LL
DELIVER YOU TO
THE HEAD-OF
THEIR
CLASSIFIED
EQUIPMENT.



WHO
WHAT
WHERE
HOW
WHY

NO
PROBLEM
WANT
A
PHONE

SUPRENTENDENT
CAN YOU SEE
US AFTER
NOTES, BOMB
AND A GUN
PLATFORM?











HEY
PATCH?
HEY MAN?

HEY
MAN?
ING.

HEY
DE-A
FOUL
BUT

THE SLYK WAY
THE S.L. BOYS
TRACKED THE
PIGEONS AND
THE SLOPPY WAY
THEY HANDLED
THE HOSTAGE/
WEAPONS
SWAP...THEY
JUST DON'T
MESH.

THE CRIMINALS MAY BE PLANNING
TO SET UP SOME POOR SAPS FROM
NOWHERE AS THEIR FALL GUYS.
IN THAT CASE, WE EITHER STAKE
THEM OUT AND SETTLE IN FOR THE
LONG HAUL OR WE TURN UP THE
HEAT UNDER THEM
NOW.

HEY
KOLLA



HEY
BOARDS GUYS
OF 10MM AUTO
PLUS ONE OF
THE GREAT

PLAIN-
CLOTHES
INVESTIGATION
FIRST. IF
THE QUARRY
CHANGES
COURSE, WE
COVER
HIM IN
DEPTH.







To wit: the Islamic Republic of Iran still recovering from debilitating acts of suppression; the "Great Devils" sold superpowers; the Kurds; and all forces operating within them. The Murrina Holy Republic has political ties with Poseidon. Unconfirmed reports credit Murrina with nuclear weapons capability.



CHRIST, A WHOLE DAY OF THIS AND NOTHING TO SHOW! NO ICE, NO WEED, NOTHING! IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!



NO PROBLEM, OFFICER -- KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!



PUT THE LAND-MATES ON FULL ALERT! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

CAPTAIN!



AND THOSE BIO-BOTS DON'T DO DRUGS AT ALL...

THE ONLY ILLEGAL LANDMATES WERE JUST HOT-RODDED SPORTS MODELS.





COME IN HQ! CHECK-POINT 24 CALLING WITH A CODE 907



YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO COMPLY!!



USE OF LAND-MINES ON PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES IS A CRIMINAL VIOLATION! FOR YOUR SUIT AND COME OUT SLOWLY!

HOLD YOUR FIRE... RICOCHETS COULD END UP IN THE CIVIL HOUSING!



HA HA?



SET THE MAGNETIC MINES!!

HOLD YOUR FIRE... RICOCHETS COULD END UP IN THE CIVIL HOUSING!







*Search and Strike Force: an intelligent machine that searches for targets matching pre-programmed criteria. Uses IR codes to avoid friendly forces









"SASAM warheads that miss their targets are designed to become mines." This function is investigated for use by urban police units. When launched without specific targeting information, SASAM top attack projectiles detonate by target size. The missiles are also capable of measuring the force of impact with their target making a microsecond decision as to which detonation method will best penetrate the armor encountered.

GODDAMN IT, DELUNAN! GET YOUR ASS IN GEAR!

COME ON--HE'S GOT TO BE A DECEIVER WHO PRETENDS TO SEND EDWARD AFTER A DECOY!

DELUNAN!

STAY WITH ME, BUT DON'T FOLLOW HIM--THAT'S TOP PRIORITY!

DELUNAN!

WE'VE GOT TO BE HAVING THE DRUG-LEADERS!

DELUNAN!

DELUNAN!

YOU WERE

STILL, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE US, DOES HE?

STAY WITH ME, BUT DON'T FOLLOW HIM--THAT'S TOP PRIORITY!

YOU TELL ME-- OF THE SEVEN OF US IN THIS SHIP, ONLY YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR THIS SORT OF THING.



YOU'VE GOT A HANDICAP, SO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?



LOW ALTITUDE TURBULENCE IS PRETTY BAD TODAY, *Shinn*

WE'LL SEND YOU VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE TARGET WHILE YOU'RE DESCENDING.



EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW.



OH, THANKS. NO PROBLEM.



LOOKS FINE

DON'T WORRY



LET THEM BACK AND GIVE THEM CREDIT, ON THEIR LEFT!

DAMMIT, DEUNAN! I WISH YOU'D QUIT ACTING LIKE THAT-- CAN'T YOU GIVE OTHER PEOPLE A LITTLE MORE CREDIT?

BUT IT'S ONLY THE GUYS ON MY RIGHT WHO ARE *WORTHY*

TO READ









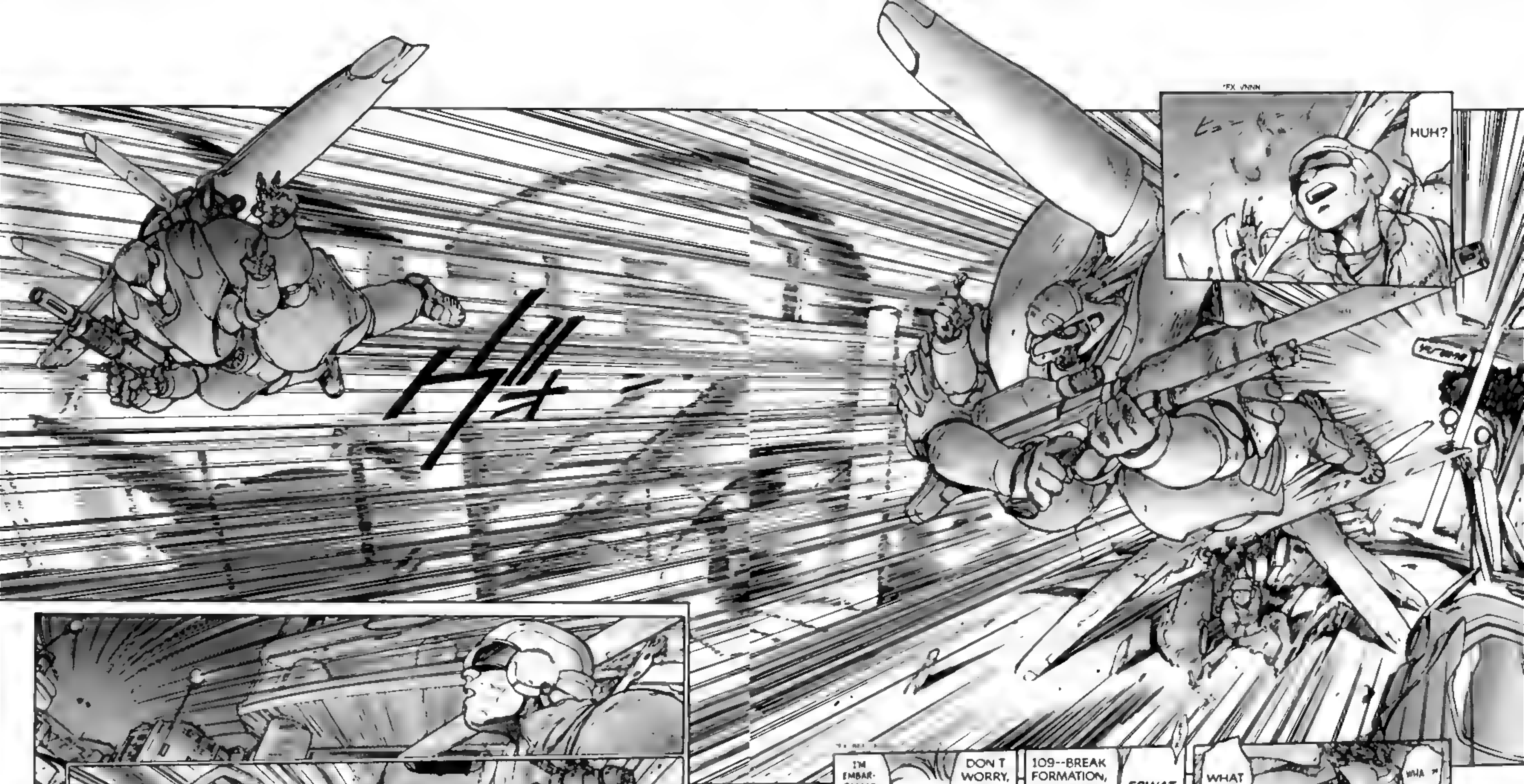
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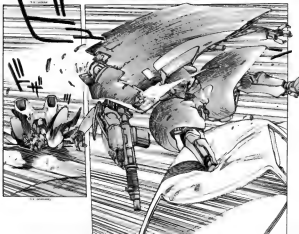




ESWAT. LEAVE HIM TO US.

WHAT THE HELL?!

WHA?!













"Giving up!!" The angle necessary for projectile penetration rather than ricochet. Perpendicular is optimum; minimum depends on armor and projectile.







WHAT'D
YOU
SEE?



IT COULD BE
A DEFECTOR
FROM THE
REPUBLIC,
YOU
KNOW...

YOU HEAR
THAT, ZIT?
CHECK
ALL THE
VIPS IN
THE
MUMMA
ENCLAVE.



HE'S GOT FIVE
PARTNERS,
SAYS HE'S ON
A MISSION TO
TAKE A VIP
BACK TO THE
REPUBLIC

THE
PRISONER'S A
SOLDIER FROM
THE MUMMA
HOLY REPUBLIC.
MALE, AGE 18.
NO SIGN OF
DRUG USE.



109
CALLING
445, DO
YOU
READ?

109
OUT

"A nation intent on converting the world to the Mumma religion. The MHR and Isen are two players in the side of the Arab League. An on-producer, the MHR's scoring inflation has antagonized CPT, but the citizen's lives are fairly good."



ONE
LEFT OUR
LITTLE
CATCH TO
TE AND
AL.

HE WAS LONGING
TO JOIN THE REAL
JAHAD. IT SEEMS
VERY OBLIVIOUS FOR
WAS TO DELIVER
FOOD TO A DROP
BOX.

WHY DIDN'T
THEY USE
THE KID TO
MANIPULATE
THOSE
PARTS?



HEAD-
QUARTERS,
DGT-11
IS
OVER.

WE WERE ONE OF
THAT SORT OF
WE'RE STAKING OUT IS
NEAR YOUR POSITION--
A PLACE SPECIALIZING
IN SELLING OFF
OBSOLETE LAND-
MATES ON
THE CHEAP. WE'LL
CHECK IT OUT
OVER.



I'VE
TOLD
HQ TO
ASSIGN
ESCORTS
TO ALL
EIGHTEEN
POSSIBLE
VIPS.





EVEN IF WE GET THEM ON A STOLEN GOODS CHARGE, ALL WE CAN DO IS DEPORT HIM AS PERSONA NON GRATA. PLAY RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS.

ASSUMING THE PILOT IS A CYBORG DIPLOMAT? OR ELSE A CYBORG WHO CAN BECOME A DIPLOMAT AS NEEDED. THEN THEY'LL TRY TO TAKE IT OUT OF REACH. OR AGENTS CALL IT RESEARCH EQUIPMENT OR SOME SHIT.

WHAT ABOUT THE GIANT LAND-MATE?

HE COULD WALK RIGHT OUT OF OLYMPUS WITH THE DAMNED THING ON.



MAYBE THEY'LL JUST USE IT TO TRASH THE SECRET TALKS...

WE DON'T KNOW THEY REALLY WANT TO TAKE IT HOME IF IT WASN'T FOR DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. WE COULD TAKE HIM IN UNDER THE ANTI-TERRORISM LAW...



THE CYBORG'S THE KEY. IF WE CAN SHOW HE'S A SPY FROM SOME MALEVOLENT THIRD COUNTRY, THEN THE RUSSIA EMBASSY CAN'T VERY WELL CLAIM HE'S A DIPLOMAT!



DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE TO SAY?

WE DON'T KNOW IF THE CYBORG PILOT IS THE "VIP" OR NOT. THEY MAY JUST WAIT AND SEE HOW THINGS TURN OUT, THEN SAY IT'S "REGRETTABLE" OR SOMETHING...



DON'T KILL YOURSELF. IF WE RUN OUT OF TIME, WE STILL HAVE SOME TRICKS UP OUR SLEEVES.

THANK YOU, BUT I'M A MAN OF ACTION. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MYSELF.

WANT US TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT?









ROGER, GIVE IT A TRY.



SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO BLUE STEEL ALREADY. NO SIGN THEY'RE STILL HOME. WE'RE GOING IN.



THE BACK DOOR SMELLS SUSPICIOUS. MAYBE EXPLOSIVES CAN'T TELL IF IT'S BOBBY TRAPPED OR NOT.

FANG, THIS IS BOLT. DO YOU READ?

GOT YOU, BOLT.







FANG...
CLEAR OUT
OF HERE. IT'S
AN ANTI-
PERSONNEL
FRAGMENTA-
TION MINE.



WHA--?

I JUST
ARMED
IT.

YEAH.

THEN
THAT
SOUND..



SEND US AN INDOOR SWEEPER TEAM FROM POLICE HQ.

THE QUARRY TOOK FOUR ANTI-CYBERD RIFLES. WE'VE FOUND TWO BOOBY-TRAPS USING A/P MINES. ORIGIN UNKNOWN.



HEAD-QUARTERS. THIS IS OZ.

WAIT.

ROGER, OZ.



THE BOMB SQUAD'S OUT ON ASSIGNMENT. WE'LL SEND YOU THE BACKUP FROM INVESTIGATIONS OVER.



I BELIEVED AS ONCE. AND REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU THINK I'D DO THAT?



LOOK, I'M OKAY. YOU MOVE OUT. WE'VE GOT THREE MORE PLACES TO CASE.

KEEP HIM SUPPORTED. JUST LIKE THAT. DON'T LET HIM MOVE.



GUGES D... FLIGHT MODE...



AND ISRAEL'S OWN INFLATION PROBLEM IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.

SENATOR BOYLE, THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, HAS BEEN PUSHING TO CUT AID TO ISRAEL.

THEY DON'T WANT ANY REASON TO REDUCE THE NEOTRUST FUND.

WELL, FROM WHAT I HEAR, ISRAEL IS AID OUTSIDE THE MAIN FUND TO MANIPULATE THE MIDDLE EAST REPUBLIC? BUT WHY SHOULD SHEET?



MIDDLE-EAST HEGEMONY? A PRESENT TO THE REPUBLIC?

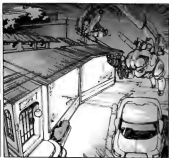
BUT ISRAEL'S GOTTA ALL THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM IMPERIAL AMERICANA

WHEN THE AGE OF ISRAEL?



IF THAT GUY
BACK THERE HAD
COUGHED UP
SOMETHING ABOUT
THAT, WE COULD
HAVE THIS THING
ALL WRAPPED
UP







OH!
SHIT
SOON!



HEART!

YOU'RE
ON
DUTY
GIRL!



GUESS
WHO?

Y'KNOW!

THERE'S NO
ONE AROUND.
WANT
TO GO
STRAIGHT
IN?



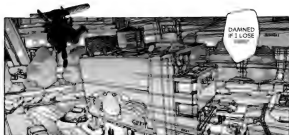
WAIT A
MINUTE!











DAMNED
IF I LOSE



THINK
SHE'LL BE
ALL RIGHT
ON HER OWN?



WELL IT
SEEMS A
LITTLE
TIGHT



A
BUT
HE'S
IN
THE
WAY

LOOK
HERE -
HE'S
ON
THE
SCREEN
AND
WE
CAN'T
SEE
HIM



SO WHAT?
YOU CALL
YOURSELF
A LAW
ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER?

STILL, THEY'RE
THE ONES ASKING
FOR TROUBLE,
RIGHT? IT'S NOT
LIKE THEY'RE
A FRIENDLY
COUNTRY OR
ANYTHING...





YES, IT'S
ABOUT
THAT
ONE.

SORRY TO
DISTURB
YOU SO
LATE IN
THE
EVENING.
MIA/AM.



THE BEAT BEAT BEAT



DON'T
LET
THEM
SEE THE
FACE.

I KNOW
THAT... BUT
THE BAD
GUYS
WANT TO
KNOW
WHY YOU
ARE HERE.



I WANTED
TO GO
RIGHT IN
THERE AND
BUST THAT
GIANT'S
ASS.



LANCE IS
TOO
UNDERGROUND.
A HIGH
BATTING
AVERAGE.
BUT NOT
A HIGH
BATTING
BOMB.

IT WAS
PREDICT-
ABLE THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN.



BUT NOT IF
WE LET A
REPPRENT
FOR IT...

...OF
COURSE,
WE COULD
JUST HAVE
HIM DIE
IN AN
"ACCI-
DENT"...



YOU
KNOW...
RELAX,
RELAX.







*A shaped-charge explosive



*E.O.D.—Explosives Ordnance Disposal





*If investigators are sloppy, the mine at the front door will take care of everything. If they're too smart for that, the second mine will delay them.





THE FOUND CORP
OF HUMAN
WANTS ARE AN
EXCELLENT
SUBJECT FOR
TO-STERNUM
KNIFE WOUND
SALVAGE
THEIR

"VOLUN-
TEER!
HMM?"

NOT YET,
THE I-STATE
WANTS ARE AN
EXCELLENT
SUBJECT FOR
TO-STERNUM
KNIFE WOUND
SALVAGE
THEIR

I JUDGED
THAT HASTE
TOOK
PRECEDENCE
IN THIS
INVESTIGA-
TION.

IT WAS
A LITTLE
LATE
FOR THE
CASE.

I GAVE HIM
PSEUDO-
HUMANITY
TO
REVEAL THE
REALITY
TO TRIGGER
THE

THE I-STATE
WANTS ARE AN
EXCELLENT
SUBJECT FOR
TO-STERNUM
KNIFE WOUND
SALVAGE
THEIR









NOT JUST PRIORITY
OVERSIDE
ASSIGNMENT!
GUARD MY
GUESSES!



NO ONE
OUT AND
LAYS A
HAND ON
IT! NO
ONE TOUCHES
IT!

IT'S IN
CLASSI-
FIED---
THE GUN,
TOO.





THE GREAT WHITE HORSE









I FIGURE KAINSU WON'T MAKE IT TO THE COAST, BUT EVEN IF HE DOES GET AWAY, THE REPUBLIC'S STILL IN OUR HANDS



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ESWAT

I HEAR THAT THE WILL COME WITH REWARDS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

BUT WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF HELPING MURKAT? YOU'RE NOT U.N. -- YOU'RE NOT EVEN A BELIEVER



LOOK, I DON'T CARE IF GOD WAS UNFAIR ABOUT WHERE HE BURIED HIS TREASURE, AND IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS IF HE STUCK PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES HE KNEW WERE GOING TO GET HIT BY DROUGHT AND FAMINE.

WELL, BUT YOU WERE THE CHOICE

YOU WERE ABOUT TO GET HIT BY DROUGHT AND FAMINE, AND YOU WERE THE CHOICE

SO YOU ISOLATE THEM DIPLOMATICALLY. THE OIL ROUTE'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE. MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STILL DEPEND ON OIL.



YOU'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA

THE WAY I WORK, SEE, IS THIS--IF YOU'RE NOT SURE SOMETHING'S OUT THERE, JUST ASSUME IT IS AND BE DAMNED CAREFUL.

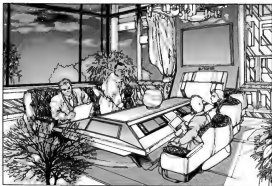
SO YOU'RE THE LIBERAL PRAGMATIST, PATCHING UP GOD'S WORK FOR HIM



EITHER WAY, SOME ARMS BUYING SHOULD BE MEETING WITH THE QUESTS RIGHT NOW TO GET THEM TO TALK HIS DIPLOMATIC BARGAINING

"QUESTS" WHO?

BT NOW KAINSU IS SURROUNDED. MAYBE HE'S ALREADY UNDER ATTACK.





SENATOR, I MUST POINT OUT THAT YOUR VISIT TO OUR BUREAU IS STRICTLY UNOFFICIAL. ITS PURPOSE NEEDN'T BE PURELY POLITICAL.



WE'RE ALSO AWARE THAT CERTAIN ARMED ELEMENTS IN MUMBAI OPPOSE OUR "PARTICIPATION." HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION. JUST KEEP ON BUYING INEXPENSIVE EMERGENCY SUPPLIES. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN--



GRANTED, OUR IMPERIAL AMERICANA DOES PROVIDE THE BULK OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE HOLY REPUBLIC. BUT IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT WE CONTINUE SENDING SUPPLIES TO THE REPUBLIC'S REFUGEES. PURELY HUMANITARIAN, OF COURSE.



IF YOUR COUNTRY WEIGHED YOUR LIFE AGAINST THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA VOICE IN HOLY REPUBLIC AFFAIRS, I WONDER WHICH WOULD BE THE HEAVIER.



IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR COUNTRY MAY BE USING YOU, MR. SENATOR, IN SOME "TRANSACTION" TO WIN OVER THE ANTIGOVERNMENT FORCES.



...THAT'S WHEN THEY PLAY THE JOKER IN THE DECK.



THEY'D COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF RATIONALE. BELIEVE ME.

BUT LIKE YOU SAY, PAL-- THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MOVE THE AMERICANS. AND SO...





SO... I PRESUME WE HAVE A DEAL? PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME AND RELAX BEFORE THE CONFERENCE



SHOWING YOUR HAND SO EARLY

IT SEEMS YOU PEOPLE AT ABBIS DON'T APPRECIATE HIS TRUE VALUE



OR AGAIN, THAT THE POWERS THAT BE IN THE OPPOSITION ARE MANIPULATING THE WHOLE SITUATION

THERE'VE BEEN RUMORS ALL ALONG THAT THE PARTY'S PURSUING THE HAWKS



THEY'VE GOT ELECTIONS COMING UP— GOT TO STAMP OUT ANY SCANDAL BEFORE IT STARTS

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA GOVERNMENT'S ON A DOWN ESCALADON THE WAR'S COMING BADLY INFLATION'S HEADING FOR THE SKY...



SO, JUST A BIT OF RED TAPE, AND IT'S TIME FOR ACT TWO.

IN ANY CASE, THE JONER RETURNS TO IMPERIAL AMERICANA, THEY AND THE HOLY REPUBLIC BEGIN TO DISTRUST EACH OTHER.

AND AGAIN, WITH A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT RESULT



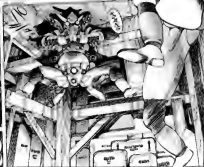
















YOU'RE
ESKAS
RIGHT?
I WANT TO
DEAL! GET
THESE OFF
ME!



OH,
SHIT!
I HATE
THOSE!



I WAS PLANNING TO
NAB THE TERRORISTS
AND SELL THEM OFF
TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER... BUT YOU
CAN HAVE THEM...
JUST A HUNDRED
THOUSAND BILLS.
CHEAP, EHY? DEAL?











WE'VE GOT THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.



ALL
QUIET ON
THE STREETS
PLEASE.
WE'VE GOT
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

THAT'S
THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.



I THOUGHT
THEY WERE
DOING THE
FINAL
CHECKS IT'S
TAKING THEM LONG
ENOUGH.



THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.



BLIND
AND
THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.



SPECIAL
FOR THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.



THE BAD
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.

THE BAD
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THERE
FOR AN HOUR
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.







STOP
TALKING LIKE
A PROPHET...
ALL THAT
MUNNIA
PRAYING
GETTING TO
YOU?



IF YOU'RE
TRYING TO
BORE ME INTO
THIS, GIVE IT
UP. AND IF
YOU'RE
SERIOUS,
COUNT ME
OUT!



LANCE, THAT
OLD FON
HE DEMOTED
ME TO A
DAMNED
BABYSITTER
DIDN'T HE?

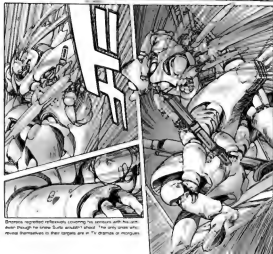
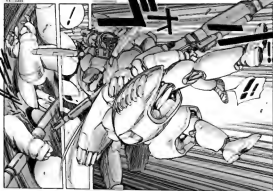


THE TARGET'S
GOING TO WALK
SOMETIME ANY-
WAY I'LL PUT THE
LITTLE GUYS
UNDER. IT WON'T
AFFECT THE
TWO CYBORGS
OR THE
GIANT



SORRY,
SUDDO, BUT
THE BRASS
CAN SO TAKE
A FLYING
LEAP ON
THIS ONE.





Bronze regretted reflexively crushing his sensors with his own teeth though he knew Sulu wouldn't shed. "The only ones who revolt themselves in their targets are in the drama or morgue."





THERE--NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL WARNED UP, LET'S GET TO WORK. I'LL BLIND THE GIANT, BUT ONLY AFTER WE'VE LET THEM PLAY A LITTLE LONGER... PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE. USE TWO GAS SHELLS. NO MORE.



IT'S TWENTY YEARS TOO SOON FOR YOU TO TRY THIS CRAP ON ME, ROOKIE. GOT IT?

I THOUGHT SO! YOU'RE DELINAN'S ACHILLES' HEEL!



WELL...
SHALL WE
GET
STARTED?
MARK!!

I'M
DAMNED
GLAD I'M
NOT
FIGHTING
AGAINST
YOU.

IF WE WERE
ENEMIES, I'D
NEVER HAVE
LET YOU FIND
ME. WE'D
PASS IN THE
NIGHT, BOY.

TWO!

DOWN
ON
THREE.

ONE!

THREE!

























ZERO-
TWO??
IS THAT
YOU??



I DON'T
CARE IF YOU
GET WASTED.
BUT
PROTECT
YOUR
DEAR!

ALL RIGHT, YOU
ASSHOLES! WHAT
THE HELL ARE YOU
UP TO?? BE MORE
CAREFUL WHEN
YOU'RE USING F3
EQUIPMENT!



IT'S
THANKS
TO IDIOTS
LIKE YOU
THAT
WE'VE GOT
TO BE
CAREFUL!

I'M
CHECKING
ON YOU
BECAUSE
IT'S AN
EMER-
GENCY!



PLAYING BY
THE BOOK
IN AN
EMERGENCY
LIKE THIS??



NOW!!

COME
DOWN
AND FOR
YOUR
HATCHES!



WHERE'S
NUMBER
THREE??
WHERE'S
SAUCH??

JUST BECAUSE
WE WEREN'T
PROGRAMMED
TO BE PERFECT
DOESN'T MEAN
YOU CAN TALK
LIKE THAT, YOU
BASTARD!



WHAT
WAS
THAT??

What
was that?
Can these
idiots
drive?



East Asian opposition becoming East-West vs. Arab-in-the-middle. A vs. B (for example, the Israeli supporting faction vs. the opposing faction) doesn't resolve any problems. Because Morton fights with a third-party enemy internally, he can't see the principles of coexistence. Total coexistence itself is the biggest issue. The one thing Fang fails to understand is that terrorism is a cancer, and cancerous cells can't coexist with a human body.





CAN'T YOU UNDER-
STAND THIS HIGH-
BROW HONEY OF
MINE? WHAT'S
WRONG WITH GOOD
OLD POISONINGS AND
DROWNINGS, YOU
ASK? THEY GOT NO
CLASS... SEE? NO
CLASS AT ALL.



IF I WANTED
MONEY, HONEY,
I'D START A
FLOWER SHOP
OR A MINERAL
WATER BAR.



AW,
COME
ON. HOW
ABOUT IF
WE SPLIT
THE
HUNDRED
GRAND?



STOP IT,
DEUNAN!
DON'T START
THINKING
ABOUT YOUR
DEBTS NOW!
BAD GIRL!



HEHE





YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE BEFORE THEY START SHOOTING BACK. GOT IT?

THREE SECONDS AFTER I GET YOUR SIGNAL, THE FIRST FIRE CRACKER POPS. GOT IT?

DON'T GET SMART-ASSES WITH ME!



NOT MY DEPART WENT. RAL

HOW ABOUT IT? AT LEAST FORK OUT FOR ALL THESE EXPLOSIVES!

MY PRETTY LITTLE BOMBS ARE ALL READY, SWEETIE



SO WHAT IF I DON'T? YOU GONNA ARREST ME 'RED HANDED'? C'MON, CUT THE COP RULLSHIT

A FART ONE KURE!

GEE, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME, BUT DO YOU HAVE A LICENSE FOR HANDLING EXPLOSIVES?



LET YOUR WEAPON DO YOUR TALKING! I'M NOT TALKING! I'M NOT TALKING! I'M NOT TALKING!

LET YOUR WEAPON DO YOUR TALKING! I'M NOT TALKING! I'M NOT TALKING! I'M NOT TALKING!



KEEP IT MOVING!

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH, DEAR FRIEND!

AN' ONLY ONE'S BE YOU FIGHTING ON!

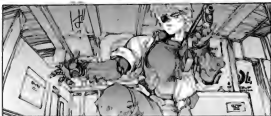


WELL, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE 'RED'! A BOMBING WON'T BEER TALKING TO YOU BOMBS!



YOUNG AND DUMB, I KNOW HER TYPE!

SURELY SURELY





















A
A
AND



AHH, PHOOEY
I WAS OFF
BY A FEW
SECONDS.

WOW
IT
WENT
IT



OH, MY
HEAD!
DAMN YOU
SONAKU!
YOU LYIN'
SACK OF
SHIT!































I'LL TRY
TA, WITH
INTO SURREN-
DERING AT THE
NEXT MAJOR
STREET. YOU
TRACK DOWN
THE LITTLE GUY
AND TAKE HIM
OUT.



ESHAAT--
STOP WHERE
YOU ARE! ARE
YOU ASESU
KAINISU FROM
THE MURMA
EMBASSY?



PERHAPS
WE COULD
HELP YOU
LEAVE THE
COUNTRY
LEGALLY
WHEN?

PLEASE
ALLOW US
TO ASSIST
YOUR
TRIP
WHEN?



WE'VE OBTAINED
INFORMATION THAT
YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED
BY TERRITORY. WE
WILL HAVE TO
EMPHATICALLY
STRESS THAT YOUR
RECENT ASSASSINATION
HAS BEEN DEGRADED



IF YOU LAY
A FINGER
ON ME, I'LL
LODGE A
FORMAL
PROTEST
WITH THE
FOREIGN
OFFICE!

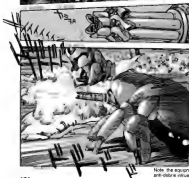
I HAVE
DIPLOMATIC
IMMUNITY--
YOU CAN'T
ARREST OR
CONFINED
ME!











AND
THIS IS
TWO-ONE
CALL ONE
THOSE
SHANNED
OUR
ROBOT

THOSE ARE
BEZERRIC
SWAY
ROBOTS!
WANT'S IN
CHARGE
DOWN
THERE!

Note: the equipment in panel six makes that sound when the anti-detonate intrusion hits open. The color-looking things are gas pressure releases























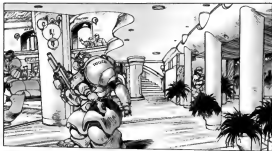




















THAT
ONE-EYED
BITCH...SO,
NO ONE
GOT
AWAY...



FIGURED YOU'D
SWAP SUITS
SOMEWHERE
ALONG THE LINE.
WE MARKED ALL
OUR UNIFORMS,
JUST IN
CASE.

ONE OF OUR
PALS TIPPED US
OFF ABOUT THE
LANDMATE.
WE'VE BEEN
TRACKING
YOU FOR A
KILOMETER.



I WANTED
TO SEE YOU
BREAK INTO THE
SENATOR'S ROOM,
BUT HELL,
CAN'T HAVE
EVERYTHING,
CAN YOU?

YOU SHOULD
HAVE PULLED
OUT SOONER.
GOTTA GIVE YOU
CREDIT, THOUGH--
YOU SURE MADE
TRACKS AS
SOON AS YOU
CAUGHT ON.



NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D MEET
YOU
AGAIN.

MAGUS, YOU
BASTARD... I
THOUGHT YOU'D
BOUGHT IT FROM
THAT MUSTARD
GAS IN
FACH.*



Fach is a place name.
Mustard gas is type of poison gas.







YOU GOT
SOME-
THING TO
SAY TO
ME,
ROOKIE?
WELL?



JUST
USE A
GASOL
BOMB

YOU WERE
LOOKING AT A
MAN WHO TOOK
OUT TWO SAS
PROS SINGLE-
HANDED. YOU SEE
HOW HE LAUGHED?
HE WAS HAPPY TO
BE TAKING ME
WITH HIM.



THAT
GUY'S NO
MARTIN. HE'S
A PRETTY
FAMOUS FACE
IN MY LINE OF
BUSINESS





FORGET THAT TRAINING YOU GOT IN FIVE- AND SIX-PERSON SQUADS. GET USED TO FIGHTING IN PAIRS, AND DO IT FAST. THEN AIM FOR LEARNING TO FIGHT SOLO.



BUT YOU'RE JUST THE OPPOSITE. YOU COME IN TOO CLOSE, AND END UP WITH A NARROW FIELD OF FIRE.



WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT IF A GUY IS FIRING TOO FAR OUT, IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SEND HIM BACK TO THE SHOOTING RANGE. WHAT HE NEEDS IS TRAINING IN STALKING, SO HE CAN GET THE QUARRY IN RANGE.



GO EASY ON THE FUN STUFF, EH?



YOU TOO, "PIRATE CAPTAIN."



TWO-ONE, ZERO-TWO COME WITH ME



YOU DON'T HAVE THE WEIGHT OR THE HORSEPOWER, SO YOU'VE GOT TO GO IN FIGHTER. GET UP CLOSE ONCE YOU'RE IN THERE. LET YOUR SPEED AND AGILITY WORK FOR YOU.



I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR WANTING TO USE YOUR KNIFE AND HAND-TO-HAND, BUT YOU CAN'T COUNT ON EVERYONE BEING SOFTIES LIKE THESE GUYS HERE



LISTEN TO ME, AND YOU'LL IMPROVE FASTER THAN IF YOU KEEP ON FOLLOWING EACH OTHER'S FAULTS.

RIGHT NOW YOU PLAY OFF EACH OTHER'S BAD HABITS. MAKE THEM WORK AGAINST YOU.



ONE-THIRTEEN,
YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO
NUMBER FIFTY-
ONE ON JACKSON
AVENUE, FLAT
EIGHT.

1. The first step is to identify the problem.





OUR MAN TRIED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE CRAZED ARAB HAWKS WANTED TO FRAME BOTH BOYLE AND THE MUNMA HOLY REPUBLIC, WHILE HE KEPT HIMSELF HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDS? BULLSHIT. NO CONVINCING MOTIVE THERE. I DON'T BUY IT.



IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG WAR.



SO THAT JUST LEAVES "THE MAN IN THE PHOTO."



IF THEY'D LET US GO AFTER IT SOONER, WE COULD HAVE CONTROLLED THE RISK MORE EFFECTIVELY.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

COULD THE GIANT HAVE JUST BEEN BAIT TO SEE OUR NEW ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT AND TACTICS IN ACTION? OR WAS IT SOME GESTURE TO THE HAWKS?

The Imperial Revolutionary General Service clearly what. At least it was more dramatic and easier to remember, so they wanted to keep him.



WE WERE ABLE TO RID OURSELVES OF A NASTY PIECE OF WORK AND BOOT OUT A MOLE AT THE SAME TIME. PRETTY DECENT RESULTS, IF YOU ASK ME.



EVEN IF THEY DID DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE HOLY REPUBLIC AND IMPERIAL AMERICANA, AT LEAST WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP BOTH MUNMA AND THE PUPPETERS (MOSSAD) FROM ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECTIVES.



THAT WOULD GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR "DIPLOMATIC" SECURITY PROVISIONS.

THE COLONEL AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY SAID ON THE KAINISU CASE UNTIL IT GOT OUT OF HAND.



DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY LIVES WE LOST?



YOU CALL THESE "DECENT RESULTS"...

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!!



OUR ALL-PURPOSE SLAVES. SECURITY WITH A LICENSE TO KILL. WHAT A DETERRENT.



PG. 500

IF OUR SECURITY
FOR THE U.N.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING NEXT WEEK IS
NO MORE EFFECTIVE,
WE'LL BE LUCKY IF
THEY DON'T
DISBAND
EDWAT ON THE SPOT.

IF BY SOME
CHANCE YOU
SHOULD BE
RIGHT, THEN WE
DIDN'T LIVE UP TO
EXPECTATIONS
NOT EVEN

姓名: _____
 学号: _____
 班级: _____
 日期: _____

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

1000

EVEN IF SHE WANTS
 But, as women's rights have
 changed, so have rape laws
 and their victims.
 For example, there is now
 no longer the obligation
 upon the rape victim to
 marry the man who
 raped her. "We force
 a woman to
 be married

TO PRESENT HER

THAT'S WHY
YOU NEED AN
LIFE LINE

IT'S LIKE
THIS:
WHenever
you
live and
work to
get the

There are several reasons why the information in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is not available to the general public. The information is not available to the general public because it is not in the public domain. The information is not available to the general public because it is not in the public domain. The information is not available to the general public because it is not in the public domain.







Esawa's bases are largely divided into two types -- official ones without even a guard in restricted areas used for training and 24-7 fully outfitted standby, and unofficial camouflaged ones like undercover civilian housing and rooms in urban apartments. The Rai where Doyle was hidden and the facility on this page are the latter.



SEE YA...

THANKS, BUT I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

WE'RE GOING OFF TO KILL A FEW BEERS WANT TO JOIN US?



HEY, MAN...

WHY DIDN'T SHE SAY SOMETHING ABOUT "BRI" OR "PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS," LIKE SHE USUALLY DOES.



WHY?

HEY--WHY'D YOU WANT TO INVITE THAT LITTLE CREEP ALONG? YOU THINK I'LL GET JEALOUS OR SOMETHING? I'M NOT THAT KIND OF TWO-BIT FLOOZY, SEE? YOU LISTENIN' TO ME?



BETTER ENJOY LIFE WHILE YOU CAN, LIKE SAYING "GOODBYE" AGAIN.

AW, POOR BABY, AS LONG AS THE WORLD'S STILL FULL OF WOLVES RUNNING AROUND PUSHING THEIR INTOLERANT IDEOLOGIES DOWN EACH OTHER'S THROATS, LITTLE SHEEP GOT TO PLAY LION...CAN'T GO BACK TO BEING LAMBS AGAIN.

NOPE--REPS FROM IRAN AND THE ISLAMIC FEDERATION ARE GONNA POWWOW ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE MUNNA. I'M ASSIGNED TO GUARD DUTY.

FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

OH, NO, YOU DON'T! DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME TO TAIL THAT LITTLE BITCH! I'VE GOT SPECIAL TRAINING TOMORROW, MAGUS!



She's violating security regulations.



[illegible]







HEY!
GUESS
WHAT
THIS
IS!

WHA
WHA

YOUR
EXPENSE
RE-
PORTS...?



WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO WRITE
OFF HERE?
YOUR GUESSES
FROM AMECHI
MOTORS? THAT
BIKE YOU
BOUGHT LAST
WEEK?



NOT TO
MENTION
THIS FINE
2012
CABERNET...



OUR LOANS ARE
SETTLED. WE'VE GOT
A PAID VACATION.
EVERYTHING'S PEACHY.
LIFE'S A ROSE-COLORED
CAROUSEL.
♡ YAMOO!



HEE HEE...
MY INSTRUCTOR
IN DOCUMENTS
AND FORGERY
AT THE ACADEMY
TOLD ME TO
PRACTICE



SEE...
LOOKS
JUST LIKE
LANCE'S
SIGNA-
TURE...

[illegible][illegible]



士 郎 正 宗 THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE
APPLESEED™

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